

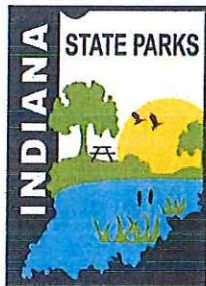
Consideration of approval of a nonrule policy document, Information Bulletin #75, providing guidelines for improvements on classified forests and wildlands; Administrative Cause No. 15-013F

2015 Fee Change Proposal

Department of Natural Resources
Forestry & State Parks

DNR

Indiana Department
of Natural Resources



Memories made naturally.



May 19, 2015
Dan Bortner, Director, State Parks
Jack Seifert, Director, State Forests

2015 Recreation Fee Changes at Indiana State Parks, Lakes and Forests



Indiana State Parks and other DNR properties have provided affordable values in outdoor recreation for nearly a century. It takes money to conserve and manage these places where memories are made naturally. To continue doing so in the manner Hoosiers deserve, the DNR will increase the fees for many features at these destinations, effective May 13, 2015.

A visit to an Indiana State Park or State Forest remains a great bargain. Campers find themselves wrapped in thousands of acres of forests, meadows, lakes, wetlands and prairies. A Hoosier family of four can spend an entire day in a park to picnic, bike, hike, swim, and enjoy nature exhibits and programs for \$7/car. Add in the cost of picnic supplies, and it is still cheaper than the cost of dinner or a movie. And no dinner or movie equals the value of sitting outdoors at a picnic table with trees, birds, bugs, and trails to discover.

The fees collected will be reinvested in our state parks and state forests. All fees go to dedicated accounts to fund staffing, supplies and equipment. Some fees will be used to supplement dollars appropriated by the legislature for facility maintenance and capital improvements. In Indiana State Parks alone, we manage more than 2,000 buildings, 700 miles of trails, 631 hotel/lodge rooms, 75 marinas, 16 swimming pools, 15 beaches, 8,400 campsites, 200 shelters, 160 playgrounds and 149 cabins. It takes staff and supplies to maintain these facilities. The last time we made this many rate changes at one time was in 2006.

New or improved features increase the value of your park visit dollars spent each year. These upgrades are done by our staff or with contracts. In 2015, visitors will see a new bike trail under construction at Raccoon SRA, new interpretive exhibits at Rose Island at Charlestown, upgrades to campground electrical service at Summit Lake and Turkey Run, horse campground improvements at O'Bannon Woods, restroom upgrades at Monroe, Hardy, Brookville and Spring Mill's Pioneer Village, a new playground at Lincoln,

new cabins at Brown County and new camping cabins at Greene-Sullivan State Forest. More improvements are listed at stateparks.IN.gov.

Indiana's user-pay system has sustained our Indiana State Parks for nearly 100 years. Approximately 70 percent of State Parks' operating budget comes from user fees; only 30 percent comes from legislative appropriations. That translates to only \$1.39 in taxes per Hoosier each year to support state parks (and only 58 cents in taxes per Hoosier for state forests.)

The fees to enter and use an Indiana State Park or State Forest are an investment in your quality of life, community, health and the future of Indiana. DNR properties are economic drivers. A conservative estimate of the impact of State Parks visitors on local communities is approximately \$623 million, with a spending average of \$31.68 per visitor annually. More than 14,000 private sector jobs are created as a result. In this country, we spend 88 percent of our health care dollars on medical services and only 8 percent on things like prevention. DNR properties support healthy living through exercise and relaxation. Our 16 pools and more than 1,300 miles of trails provide great places to walk, run, bike and swim.

Indiana State Parks and State Forests are places where memories are made naturally with families and friends. Families grow up at our properties, then bring their families back to discover what's new and introduce the next generation to their outdoor inheritance.

Recreational Fees at a Glance*

Fees That Will Not Change in 2015

- Daily (\$2/person) and annual (\$10/person) pedestrian/bicycle pass
- Commercial buses (\$2/person) and onsite field trips fees (\$1/person)
- Daily horse tag (\$5/horse) and annual horse tag (\$20/horse)
- Non-motorized lake permit (\$5/permit)

- Daily swimming pool rates (\$3/person) except at Prophetstown and O'Bannon
- Rental picnic shelters (\$25-\$75) and recreation building rental fees
- State boat mooring fees and boat rental fees
- Family cabin rental fees

Fees that Change in 2015

Entrance Permits – Changes Effective on May 13, 2015

- In-state daily entrance from \$5 to \$7. (\$8/Prophetstown)
- Out-of-state daily entrance from \$7 to \$9 (\$12/Indiana Dunes and \$10/Prophetstown)
- In-state Annual Pass from \$40 to \$50
- Out-of-state Annual Pass from \$60 to \$70
- Golden Hoosier Pass (age 65/over) from \$20 to \$25

Camping and Cabins – Changes Effective on May 13, 2015

- Full hookup nightly rates from \$26 to \$30 Sun.-Wed., \$36 to \$40 on weekends, and \$40 to \$44 on holiday weekends
- Electric site nightly rates from \$19 to \$23 Sun.-Wed., \$26 to \$30 on weekends and \$29 to \$33 on holiday weekends
- Nonelectric nightly rates from \$12 to \$16 Sun.-Wed., \$15 to \$19 Thur.-Sat. and \$18 to \$22 on holiday weekends
- Primitive, backpacking/canoe campsites from \$10 to \$12/night
- Rent-a-camp cabin rates from \$35 to \$40 at Tippecanoe River, Mississinewa, Shakamak, Deam Lake, Starve Hollow, Greene-Sullivan
- State Park Inn rooms generally by \$2/night

Horse Camping and Fees – Changes Effective on May 13, 2015

- Electric site nightly rates from \$22 to \$26 Sun.-Wed., \$29 to \$33 on weekends and \$32 to \$36 on holiday weekends
- Nonelectric site nightly rates from \$15 to \$19 Sun.-Wed., \$18 to \$22 on weekends and \$21 to \$25 on holiday weekends
- Similar \$4/night increase for Deam Lake horse stall campsites

Premium Site Fees – Changes Effective on Nov. 1, 2015

- Establish premium campsites (for example, sites directly by lakeshores) at an additional \$2/night

Swimming and Boating – Changes Effective on May 13, 2015

- Aquatic Center daily passes from \$3 to \$5 at Prophetstown and O'Bannon
- Motorized lake permit from \$22 to \$25

Special Forestry-Related Fees – Changes Effective July 1, 2015

- State tree nursery seedling price from \$0.32/seedling to \$0.35
- Firewood cutting permit from \$3/load to \$10/load or 3 loads/\$25

Fee Changes Pending Natural Resources Commission Approval

- Timber buyers' licensing fee from \$125 to \$150 in 2017
- Timber buyers agent fee from \$10 to \$15 in 2017 and phased to \$25 over 2-3 years
- Establish state forest gun range fees (\$5/daily, \$25 - \$50/annual)
- New Classified Forest management assistance/plan fee of \$0.50-\$10/acre assessed every 5 years
- State forest self-registration campsites from \$10 to \$12.15/night (\$13 after tax beginning June 1, 2015)
- State forest self-registration horse sites from \$13 to \$14.95/night (\$16 after tax beginning June 1, 2015)
- State park primitive horse sites from \$13 to \$15/night
- New off-road cycling permit fee of \$5/daily or \$20/annual
- Annual statewide commercial photography permit of \$100 (includes gate fee)
- Addition of \$5/reservation fee for camping (NOT per night)
- Additional State Forest gate and use area fees implemented for 2016

*For a complete list of recreation fees visit www.stateparks.IN.gov

Questions and Answers About DNR Recreation Fee Changes

Why are you changing fees in 2015? A "user pays" system has been in place since the inception of our State Parks in 1916. About 70 percent of our operating budget is covered by user fees. When costs of utilities, supplies and equipment increase for you at home, they increase for us too. We alter fees to maintain the services you expect and enjoy as a DNR property user. We have limited those fee changes since 2006 to reduce the impact on families during challenging economic conditions.

Will entrance fees increase? Yes, by \$2/car for both in-state and out-of-state visitors. You will be able to enter a State Park or a State Forest Recreation Area for \$7/day with an in-state vehicle license or \$9/day with an out-of-state license. There are many activities that have no additional fees. A few of these include visiting nature centers, hiking, birding, most interpretive programs, picnicking, biking and playground use. A day at a DNR property is an inexpensive way to enjoy your family and the outdoors.

What about camping fees? Most camping increases by \$4/night.

Didn't you just raise rates recently? We have had minor increases in some fees, but our last across-the-board fee changes were in 2006. Prices rise gradually for the goods and services we purchase. The cost of providing facilities and services does the same. A first class stamp that cost 39 cents in 2006 is now 49 cents. A dozen eggs averaged \$1.31 in 2006; the same eggs now average \$2.11/dozen.

My taxes support the DNR—why do I have to pay more for services? Every tax dollar you pay is divided to support a wide variety of state services. A small percentage of each tax dollar is appropriated to the DNR. That equates to only about \$1.39 per Hoosier in taxes each year for State Park operations. The cost in tax dollars for statewide forestry conservation programs and operations is just 58 cents per Hoosier.

Where does the money actually go when I pay for services? All revenue from entrance fees, camping, programs and permits is placed in a dedicated account used only to fund the operations at State Parks or State Forests.

Why doesn't money collected from horse riders get used just on horse trails, or money from campers get used just on campgrounds? No particular user group generates enough revenue to be self-supporting. There are also basic services that we provide at little or no cost to users, such as hiking, biking, many educational programs, security staff, and brochures and maps. Combining all types of user fees allows us to provide a wide range of services.

What have you done with the dollars from past fee increases? Funds have been used to offset increases in utility, fuel and supply costs, and to purchase equipment. Funds are also used to manage new properties that bring Indiana's resources closer to Hoosiers. Since 1988, the number of properties managed by Indiana State Parks has increased from 27 to 32. Operational dollars must stretch further. It is important to note, however, that our State Parks system has not increased staff. In fact, while the number of sites we manage has increased, the number of full-time staff in the division has dropped from 385 to 356. The average number of full-time staff/property has decreased from 14.2 in 1988 to 11 today.

Will we see facility upgrades with these fee changes? The majority of our funding for facility improvements does not come from user fees. These improvements are funded through legislative appropriations. However, some of these new dollars will be used for improvements, maintenance and staffing. These fee increases will help with projects that provide you with safe, secure and clean places to stay and play. You can see improvements for our properties summarized for the last few years at stateparks.IN.gov/2441.htm.

How are new rates/fees determined? We look at many factors, including the needs of our users, when fees were last raised, fees in other states and at private facilities, occupancy rates, our budget and the revenue needed to support staff and services.

Why do some fees need approval by the Natural Resources Commission? In 2005, the NRC approved a range of fees and authorized DNR to make appropriate fee adjustments within that range. We are still accountable to the NRC and must manage fee adjustments responsibly, but this allows us to vary rates within an approved range in most situations. Any new fees or fees outside the approved range need NRC approval.

Are there any fee changes that must be considered by the NRC this year? Yes. We will request a \$5/daily and \$20/annual off-road cycling permit. This mirrors fees charged for horses used on horse trails.

We are instituting a \$5 per reservation fee for using our Camping Reservation System. Most other states have been charging this fee for years. The funds will come to DNR, not our CRS vendor, and they will help cover our cost of operating the reservation system.

We are modifying a fee for commercial photographers who use our sites for photo shoots. This will now be a simple \$100 annual permit that can be used at all DNR properties and includes gate admission.

Some new State Forest fees will help cover costs and the value of goods and services provided. The popular gun range at Clark State Forest is a prime example. With the range's more than 7,000 users annually, the new fee of \$5/visit or \$25 for an annual pass will help fund needed facility upgrades.

For \$10 a family can cut a rick of firewood (about a standard pick-up load) from designated areas on State Forests. The previous \$3 fee had not changed since the 1980s. This is a great value to Hoosiers who heat with wood and have limited access to firewood. A multi-load discount of 3 loads for \$25 is also available.

State Forest campgrounds are predominately 'self registration' primitive campsites. In response to visitor comments, the camping fees have been simplified and will be rounded to an even dollar amount.

There are also some changes in Classified Forest management assistance fees, fees for licensed timber buyers and tree seedling costs.

When do the changes take effect? Camping, gate admission, annual pass and swimming fee changes will take effect on May 13, 2015. Other fees will take effect on June 1, July 1 or Nov. 1, 2015, pending NRC approval.

If I already made my camping or inn reservations for this summer, will I have to pay more? No. All campground, inn and rent-a-camp or other lodging reservations made before May 13, 2015, will be honored at 2014 rates.

Can I earn free passes or discounts to save on entrance or other costs? Save by purchasing your annual pass or making your camping or inn reservations now - before May 13, 2015. SPRGo! Value Packs will remain at 2012 rates through August 2015, and are a great way to save on annual passes, boat permits or horse tags and camping. Visit stateparks.IN.gov/7313.htm or innsgifts.com.

We offer occasional contests with drawings for passes and gift cards, such as our annual fitness challenge, photography contests and other features offered by Indiana State Parks and by individual properties.

Starting in fall 2015, all 3rd-5th grade classrooms using a new Indiana State Parks history curriculum will receive a one-day access pass for each student to use at any Indiana State Park.

Learn about all of these at stateparks.IN.gov or at [facebook.com/INdnrstateparksandreservoirs](https://www.facebook.com/INdnrstateparksandreservoirs).

Other Questions?

Email us at INParkForestFees@dnr.IN.gov

2015 **Implemented** Fee Changes

Description	DNR Division	Existing Fees	New Fees	Effective Date	Range Approved in 2005	Additional NRC Approval Needed
Daily Resident Entrance	Parks & Forestry	\$5.00	\$7.00	05/13/15	\$4 - \$15	No
Daily Resident Prophetstown	Parks	\$6.00	\$8.00	05/13/15	\$4 - \$15	No
Daily Non-Resident Entrance	Parks & Forestry	\$7.00	\$9.00	05/13/15	\$5 - \$18	No
Daily Non-Resident Prophetstown	Parks	\$8.00	\$10.00	05/13/15	\$5 - \$18	No
Daily Non-Resident IN Dunes	Parks	\$10.00	\$12.00	05/13/15	\$5 - \$18	No
Annual Resident Permit (AEP)	Parks & Forestry	\$40.00	\$50.00	05/13/15	\$26 - \$60	No
Annual Non-Resident Permit (NRAEP)	Parks & Forestry	\$60.00	\$70.00	05/13/15	\$30 - \$80	No
Golden Hoosier Permit (GHP)	Parks & Forestry	\$20.00	\$25.00	05/13/15	1/2 of resident annual park pass	No
Camping Full Hook-Up (AA)	Parks & Forestry	Sun - Wed \$26, Thurs - Sat \$36, Holiday \$40	Sun - Wed \$30, Thurs - Sat \$40, Holiday \$44	05/13/15	\$20 - \$60	No
Camping Electric (A)	Parks & Forestry	Sun - Wed \$19, Thurs - Sat \$26, Holiday \$29	Sun - Wed \$23, Thurs - Sat \$30, Holiday \$33	05/13/15	\$15 - \$50	No
Camping Non-Electric (B)	Parks & Forestry	Sun - Wed \$12, Thurs - Sat \$15, Holiday \$18	Sun - Wed \$16, Thurs - Sat \$19, Holiday \$22	05/13/15	\$10 - \$40	No
Camping Primitive (C)	Parks & Forestry	\$10.00	\$12.00	05/13/15	\$5 - \$12	No
Camping Equestrian Electric (A)	Parks & Forestry	Sun - Wed \$22, Thurs - Sat \$29, Holiday \$32	Sun - Wed \$26, Thurs - Sat \$33, Holiday \$36	05/13/15	\$15 - \$50	No
Camping Equestrian Non-Electric (B)	Parks & Forestry	Sun - Wed \$15, Thurs - Sat \$18, Holiday \$21	Sun - Wed \$19, Thurs - Sat \$22, Holiday \$25	05/13/15	\$10 - \$40	No
Camping Equestrian Electric DEAM LAKE NON-WATERFRONT ONLY	Forestry	Sun - Wed \$22, Thurs - Sat \$29, Holiday \$32	Sun - Wed \$26, Thurs - Sat \$33, Holiday \$36	05/13/15	\$15 - \$50	No
Camping Equestrian Electric DEAM LAKE WATERFRONT ONLY (Includes 2 mandatory horse stalls at \$7.00 each per night)	Forestry	Sun - Wed \$36, Thurs - Sat \$43, Holiday \$46	Sun - Wed \$40, Thurs - Sat \$47, Holiday \$50	05/13/15	\$15 - \$50	No
Cabin (Rent-A-Camp)	Parks & Forestry	\$35.00	\$40.00	05/13/15	\$40 - \$160	No
Annual Motorized Lake Permit (MLP)	Parks & Forestry	\$22.00	\$25.00	05/13/15	\$20 - \$40	No
Daily Swimming (Prohetstown & O'Bannon Aquatic Centers Only)	Parks	\$3.00	\$5.00	05/13/15	\$1 - \$5	No
Premium Campsites/Cabins Establishment	Parks & Forestry	N/A	additional \$2.00 per night	11/01/15	All fall within range approved in 2005/06	No

2015 **Requested** Fee Changes or New Fees

Description	DNR Division	Existing Fees	New Proposed Fees	Tentative Effective Date	Range Approved in 2005	Additional NRC Approval Needed
Abe Martin Lodge	Parks	Varies	\$79.99 - \$499.99 (Includes Aynes House)	2015	\$39 - \$199	Yes
Canyon Inn	Parks	Varies	\$62.99 - \$179.99	2015	\$35 - \$159	Yes
Clifty Inn	Parks	Varies	\$89.99 - \$289.99	2015	\$49 - \$229	Yes
Fort Harrison Inn (and Garrison)	Parks	Varies	\$79.99 - \$689.99 (Includes Harrison House)	2015	\$49 - \$359	Yes
Potawatomi Inn	Parks	Varies	\$69.99 - \$259.99	2015	\$39 - \$259	Yes
Spring Mill Inn	Parks	Varies	\$79.99 - \$189.99	2015	\$35 - \$159	Yes
Turkey Run Inn	Parks	Varies	\$69.99 - \$259.99	2015	\$39 - \$259	Yes
Annual Commercial Photography Fee	Parks	Varies	\$100.00	07/01/15	N/A	Yes
Annual Mountain Bike Permit	Parks & Forestry	N/A	\$20.00	07/01/15	N/A	Yes
Daily Mountain Bike Permit	Parks & Forestry	N/A	\$5.00	07/01/15	N/A	Yes
CRS Reservation Fee	Parks & Forestry	N/A	\$5.00	11/01/15	N/A	Yes
Camping Equestrian Primitive	Parks & Forestry	\$13.00	\$15.00	07/01/15	\$5 - \$12	Yes
Self-Registration Horse Primitive	Forestry ONLY	\$13.00	\$14.95 (\$16 after taxes)	06/01/15	\$5 - \$12	Yes
Self-Registration Primitive	Forestry ONLY	\$10.00	\$12.15 (\$13 after taxes)	06/01/15	\$5 - \$12	Yes
Annual Gun Range Fee	Forestry	N/A	\$25 - \$50	07/01/15	N/A	Yes
Daily Gun Range Fee	Forestry	N/A	\$5.00	07/01/15	N/A	Yes
Firewood Cutting Permit	Forestry	\$3.00	\$10.00 (or 3 for \$25.00)	07/01/15	N/A	Yes
State tree nursery seedling price	Forestry	\$0.32	\$0.35	07/01/15	N/A	Yes
Classified Forest Mgmt Assistance and Plan Preparation	Forestry	N/A	up to \$10 / acre	2016 or later	N/A	Yes
Timber Buyers' Licensing Fee	Forestry	License \$125 (Agent \$5)	License \$150 (Agent \$20)	2016 or later	N/A	Yes

2015 Fee Change Proposal

Additional Information & Clarification

Division of State Parks

Inns' Fee Ranges for Nightly Rates:

Request an increase in approved fee range / room rates for each of the seven (7) state park inns, in order to remain competitive in fair market value with the rest of the hospitality industry.

Division of State Parks

Annual Commercial Photography Fee:

Commercial photographers regularly use our properties as backdrops for senior pictures and family portraits, commercial photography for ads and photographs to sell. In some instances, they bring sets and multiple models. The commercial photography fee is designed to capture fees from those individuals and businesses that profit from the use of DNR sites for these purposes. We do not anticipate requiring this fee and permit from the casual nature photographer who is simply posting and sharing photos on social media for the enjoyment of visitors or other photographers. The fee of \$100 per year will provide the photographer with an annual pass and a photography permit good at any DNR property throughout the year.

The revenue generated by this permit will not be significant, but will allow us to more clearly identify and track usage of our properties for these purposes.

Division of State Parks & Forestry

Off-Road Cycling Annual & Daily Permits:

The request is for a \$20 annual off-road cycling permit and a \$5 daily off-road cycling permit. Off-road cycling has become a significant activity on public lands and continues to grow in popularity annually. Off-road cycling can have a significant impact on trails, as does horse-back riding, and other types of trail usage. At this time, we charge a horse tag fee, but do not charge an off-road cycling fee.

A conservative estimate of new revenue would be approximately \$60,000 over the course of a fiscal year.

Division of State Parks and Forestry

Central Reservation System (CRS) Reservation Fee:

Indiana is one of only a couple of states that does not charge a reservation fee for camping reservations. Some examples of reservation fees charged across other state park systems include: Ohio \$8.25, Florida \$6.75 to \$7.75, Idaho \$10.00, Iowa \$4.00 to \$6.00, Minnesota \$7.00 and Missouri \$8.50, per reservation.

Indiana DNR proposes a \$5.00 reservation fee on each online or call center camping reservation (not per night). The new revenue would be approximately \$1,000,000 over the course of a fiscal year.

Division of Forestry

Primitive Self Registration Camping:

The State Forest system has 17 primitive campgrounds with a self-registration, honor based payment system with approximately 10,000 camping night stays annually. This fee proposal follows the overall \$2/night increase of primitive camping fees on DNR properties, but rounds the fee to an even dollar amount after tax for self-registration camping. This 'rounding' is commonly suggested on many user satisfaction surveys.

- Rounds fee to \$13/night after tax vs \$12.84 for primitive **family** camping
 - In effect the before tax amount is \$12.15 which is above the old NRC approved range of \$12.00
- Rounds fee to \$16/night after tax vs \$16.05 for primitive **horse** camping
 - In effect the before tax amount is \$14.95/night and is within the 2015 requested fee range

The current fee system requiring campers to deposit exact change in the registration box is problematic, a common complaint from campers and creates issues for security staff. This proposal simplifies the fee payment and collection process and improves the guest experience with a modest positive revenue impact.

Division of Forestry

Gun Range Annual & Daily Fees:

Establishes a daily and annual gun range fee at the existing Clark State Forest range and future State Forest ranges that may be developed. The self-registration, no fee, gun range at Clark State Forest has been in operation approximately 30 years, with an estimated 5,000-6,000 registered user visits annually.

This proposal establishes a new fee of \$5/day or \$25-50/annual permit (\$25 for 2015). This user based system would improve security, and help fund range rehabilitation, maintenance and operation of the existing and new gun ranges. Annual revenue of \$25,000 projected. 2014 public meeting attendees overwhelmingly supported continuation of the range, recommended several improvements and supported a gun range fee to retain and improve the facility.

Division of Forestry

Firewood Cutting Permit:

As a service and product to the public, Indiana State Forests have been making firewood available for homeowners for over 30 years. The program is primarily geared to the homeowner looking for a place to cut firewood to heat their home and reduce utility bills. Individuals can purchase a 'firewood cutting permit' from the State Forest office and cut in designated areas- most often associated with recent managed timber harvests.

The proposed fee adjusts the 30+ year old fee from \$3/rick to a new fee of \$10/rick (a pick-up load). A volume discount of 3/\$25 is also available. Approximately 1,000 State Forest firewood cutting permits are sold annually with projected revenues of \$10,000/yr.

Division of Forestry

State Nursery Seedling Fees:

Indiana Code IC 14-23 and 2-3 instructs the Division of Forestry to operate and maintain nurseries for the production of trees to be used in reforestation and distribution:

Duties of Department

IC 14-23-1-1 (3)

(3) Establish, operate, and maintain nurseries for the production of trees to be used in reforestation. The trees may be:

- (A) used to reforest land owned by the state;
- (B) supplied to owners of private land at a price not exceeding cost of production; or
- (C) used for planting on public roads or land under the terms that are considered by the department to be for the public benefit.

(10) Propagate trees and shrubs for state institutions or for planting along highways. A common carrier may transport trees or shrubs grown by the state at a rate less than the established tariff to and from points within Indiana.

IC 14-23-9-1

Establishment of program

Sec. 1. The department shall establish a program for the annual distribution and planting of seedlings by every third grade student in Indiana who attends a school that asks to participate in the program.

As added by P.L.1-1995, SEC.16.

IC 2-3-7-1 Chapter 7. Distribution of Trees to Legislators for Planting

Annual tree allotment

Sec. 1. Each and every member of the General Assembly shall be entitled to one hundred (100) trees yearly from the department of natural resources for distribution to their respective local public service organizations for planting on public properties. (Formerly: Acts 1971, P.L.196, SEC.1; Acts 1972, P.L.11, SEC.6.)

Fee Request Change

Increase for seedlings in the amount of ~10% or \$.03 per seedling (\$3.00/100). This will bring the cost of seedlings to:

- o Conifer 3-0 from \$35.25/100 to \$38.25/100
- o Conifer 2-0 from \$26.05/100 to \$29.05/100
- o Deciduous 1-0 from \$31.80/100 to \$34.80/100
- o Deciduous 2-0 from \$37.55/100 to \$40.55/100
- o Shrubs from \$29.50/100 to \$32.50/100
- o Select Line from \$40.00/100 and \$50.00/100 to \$43.00/100 and \$53.00/100 respectively.

Potential new revenue from sale of 2.6 million seedlings = \$78,000.00

Division of Forestry

License Timber Buyer Fee:

Duties of Department

I.C. 25-36.5, I.C. 25.36.5-1-7 is timber buyer's license fees and I.C. 25-36.5-1-15-(d) for the agent fees. It will take action by the legislature in order to change the fees.

Background information

The original law was passed in 1972 with fees of \$30.00 for the license and each agent was \$3.00. As time and costs have necessitated it, the fees have been raised in order to meet the costs of administering the program.

Fee Request Change

The fees have not changed since 2003 while the Administrative costs of the program have increased. We have enacted many cost savings measures since 2006, such as sending the monthly Bulletin electronically and no longer mass printing and mailing it. However, we have had to switch the licensing database to IPLA's database which comes with a maintenance cost.

We have minimized staff while still being able to handle the administrative duties of running the program in a manner adhering to the law and serving our customers.

Potential revenue and current cost of operation

There are around 525 licenses that are active each year, raising the fee \$25.00 (\$125.00 to \$150.00) would increase program income around \$13,125.00 annually. The fee for each agent is currently \$10.00 with around 1100 active agents each year. By increasing the fee by \$5.00 to \$15.00, we would generate \$16,500.00. The future plan is to phase in the agent fees until it gets to \$25.00 annually. At \$25.00, the annual revenue generated would be about \$27,500.00.

Division of Forestry

Classified Forest Management Assistance & Plan Preparation:

Private Forest Land Fees

Indiana Code (IC 14-23-1-1) instructs the Division of Forestry to advise private forest landowners on the management of their forest and that the landowner should pay for the service:

IC 14-23-1-1

Duties of Department

Sec. 1. The department shall do the following: ...

(12) Examine private forest land:

(A) upon the request of; and

(B) at the expense of;

the owner for the purpose of advising the owner on the proper methods of forest management

This section was added to the law in 1995. The Division has not charged landowners for services provided by the Cooperative Forest Management Section. The DNR executive office has approved a private lands

fee up to \$10/acre. The Division is now meeting with interest groups to determine what services to charge for and to ultimately develop consensus about the fees before implementation.

Classified Forest & Wildlands Program (CFW)

The Classified Forest & Wildlands Program is Indiana's primary private forest land conservation program. The program began in 1921. Enrolled landowners agree (by application and management plan) to be a good stewards of the land and its natural resources. In return, the State of Indiana agrees to see that the assessed value of the land is reduced to \$1 per acre, and taxed on that preferential assessment. The land is managed for timber production, wildlife habitat, and the protection of watersheds, while conserving other natural resources and values. The minimum acreage to enroll in the program is 10 acres.

CFW Program Enrollment (3/25/2015): 758,616 acres; 15,359 tracts

Average Tract Size: 49.4 acres

Reimbursement Ideas

- General fee for all classified landowners/tracts on annual basis (Have a window of time where landowners can withdraw from program for free if they don't like the new fee structure)
- Yield tax for CFW landowners
- Small fee on all forest land not dependent on CFW enrollment and have the county collect fee with taxes
- Initial site visits with or without plan
- Application fee for CFW
- Fee for not following management plan
- Re-inspection fee – paid once every 5 yrs based on tract acreage

Division of Forestry

Fee Use Areas & Entry Fees:

Currently only 3 of the 14 State Forest properties have entrance gates or associated entrance fees. This proposal expands the implementation of entrance fees and fee use areas to all State Forest properties. Implementation would likely begin in 2016 after a series of public input at high use State Forests and those with controllable and limited access points. (i.e. Morgan Monroe, Yellowwood, Greene-Sullivan, Jackson-Washington).

Since most properties will remain without a staffed gate the purchase of passes will be via self-serve stations, internet, and at the property office during normal business hours. The use of an introductory fee and phased system is anticipated to smooth the transition to the State Forest fee use system. (i.e. \$5/day \$25/year). Fee is projected to eventually match fees on other DNR State Parks and Forest Recreation Areas. Annual revenues are projected at \$150,000-\$300,000.
